

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of

Maertens et al

Atty. Ref.: **2752-48**

Divisional of Serial No.**09/378,900**

Group:

Filed: **July 6, 2001**

Examiner:

For: **PROCESS FOR TYPING OF HCV ISOLATES**

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July 6, 2001

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, DC 20231

Sir:

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Preliminary amend the above-identified application as follows.

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Amend the specification as follows.

Insert the attached Sequence Listing after the claims pages.

IN THE CLAIMS

Amend the claims as follows.

Cancel claims 1-23, without prejudice.

Insert the following claims:

--24. (new) A polynucleic acid specifically hybridizing with a sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO: 55 to SEQ ID NO: 81, under conditions allowing discrimination of up to 1 nucleotide mismatch, or the complement thereof.

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25. (new) An HCV virus characterized by any of the 5' UTR nucleotide sequences selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO: 55 to 81.--

REMARKS

The specification has been amended to include the attached Sequence Listing. The attached Sequence is the same as the paper and computer-readable copies of the Sequence Listing filed in the parent Application No. 09/378,900, with a Statement dated August 23, 1999. The Office is requested to use the computer-readable copy of the Sequence Listing of the parent Application No. 09/378,900 for the present application. No new matter has been added. A separate Request in this regard is attached.

Claims 1-23 have been canceled, without prejudice. Claims 24 and 25 have been added. Support for the amended claims is found throughout the specification. No new matter has been added. Claims 24 and 25 are pending.

A substitute Power of Attorney and Change of Address Notice is attached and the Office is requested to direct all further communication relating to the above to the undersigned.

An early and favorable Action on the merits is requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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